



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

News Release

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Contact: Craig McLaughlin, State Board of Health, (360) 236-4106

Board Holds Isolation and Quarantine Rules Hearing

Wednesday, September 11, 2002 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Best Western Cottontree Inn, 2300 Market St., Mount Vernon

The State Board of Health's regularly scheduled meeting, Wednesday, September 11, in Mount Vernon, will include a public hearing on a proposed rule governing isolation and quarantine during a bioterrorism attack or other health emergency. It will also feature presentations of "best practices" in environmental health and a discussion of the proposed conversion of Premera Blue Cross to a for-profit company.

The isolation and quarantine rule would help guarantee due process and protect civil liberties whenever a local health officer exercises his or her existing emergency powers. The rule would also clarify that law enforcement must enforce, and the public must obey, isolation and quarantine orders.

Board Member Carl Osaki will discuss his work on improving environmental health programs to better protect the public. He has invited local health agencies from Island, Pierce, Whatcom and Skagit counties to showcase programs that are examples of best practices in the field.

Bill Daley, deputy commissioner for policy at the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, will brief the Board and answer questions about the OIC's plan to review the proposal by Premera Blue Cross, a non-profit health insurer covering nearly a million Washingtonians, to convert to a stock company.

The Board will also hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to the Board rule governing vital statistics, which would result in changes to birth and death certificate forms.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/.

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The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/.